



## Aruba Tourism Authority introduces their youthful delegates to the Caribbean Tourism Conference 2007

Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) invited press members to meet two young ladies of Aruba who will represent their island at the upcoming Caribbean Tourism Conference (CTC) being held in Puerto Rico during the week of October 19 to 24. This annual event is one of the largest in Caribbean, and this year will host over thirty countries, during which a number of issues facing island nations and the tourism industry are addressed.

One of the most productive and interesting aspects of the conferences is that simultaneously as actual tourism ministers and executives are making landmark decisions, a congress of youthful delegates from each island are also meeting and discussing the future of their homelands, and the effects of tourism on their economy and social structure. The Travel and Leisure Youth Congress of the CTC prepares the tourism ministers of the future for the responsibilities that will face them. They participate in a debate over pressing issues for the region, which is considered one of the highlights of the CTC by all those attending.

In 2006, the ATA conducted a debate with the cooperation of the middle and upper schools of Aruba to choose their "Junior Minister" Amy Richards, who represented the island at the CTC 2006 in the Bahamas. On Wednesday afternoon of this week, Amy passed the title of Junior Minister of Tourism to her runner-up in the debate, Evelyne Peterson, who will depart for Puerto Rico on Sunday to participate in the CTC 2007 Youth Congress.

Her mother and Sjeidy Feliciano of the ATA will accompany fifteen-year-old Evelyne, a student at Maria College MAVO to Puerto Rico. During the past months, Evelyne has prepared for her role as a representative of Aruba's youth by consulting with Yolanda Richardson, the teacher that conducted the debate, and tourism experts such as Sanju Daryanani of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) and Thais Nierop of the Hospitality Management Department of the University of Aruba.

Additionally introduced that afternoon was Aruba's contest winner who will present her tourism essay in the Condé Nast Traveler "My Caribbean" Essay Competition, ten-year-old Simran Mirpur, who attends the International School of Aruba. She will travel to Puerto Rico with her mother to represent her island and present her essay regarding what she would do if she were Minister of Tourism. In her composition, Simran proposed a plan to expose island visitors to the native culture, with a detailed outline as to best display Aruba's music, art, and cuisine. Her winning essay earned her a ticket to the conference, the opportunity to compete for various awards from the CTC.

Sjeidy Feliciano was proud to present these accomplished young women who will accompany her to the CTC 2007 to represent their island over the next week. Seeing them off was also Jai'rus Barry, President of Aruba's Junior Parliament, and the Junior Minister of Tourism two years ago. He also assisted Evelyne in preparation as Aruba's youth representative, and remarked that it is a "wonderful education" to interact with youth from all the other islands. The staff of THE NEWS offers congratulations to Evelyne and Simran for their accomplishments and wishes them success at the CTC 2007.